A'ROOT IS THE BASIC ELEMENT—FUNDAMENTAL OR ESSENTIAL PART—OF A WORD.

The checked roots are especially important.

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ROOT	MEANING AND EXAMPLE*	<u>ROOT</u>	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
ag, act	do, act; as agent, counteract	cid, cis	cut, kill; as suicide, precision
agr	field; as agriculture, agoraphobia	clin	lean, bend; as inclination, recline
alt	high; as altitude, altar	clud, clus	close, shut; as conclude, recluse
alter	other; as altercation, alternative	cogn	know; as incognito, cognizant
am	friend, love; as amity, amorous	cord	heart; as cordial, accord
anim	mind, life spirit; as animate, animal,	corp	body; as corpulent, corpse
	animosity	cosm	world; as cosmic, cosmopolitan
ann, annu,	year; as annuity, annual,	√ cred	believe; as incredible, credentials
enni	anniversary, perennial	√ curr, curs	run; as current, cursory
anthrop	man; as philanthropy, anthropoid	dec	ten; as decimal, decade
aper	open; as aperture, aperient	dem	people; as democracy, demographic
apt	fit; as adapt, aptitude	derm	skin; as epidermis, dermatologist
aqu	water; as aqueous, aquacade	di	day; as diary, sundial
arch	rule, govern; as anarchy, matriarch	√ dic, dict	speak, say; as indicate, contradict
aster, astr	star; as asteroid, disaster, astronomy	dign	worthy; as dignity, indignant
aud	hear; as audible, audition	domin	lord, master; as dominate, indomitable
aur	gold; as auriferous	dorm	sleep; as dormant, dormitory
bas	low; as debase, basement	√ duc, duct	lead; as induce, ductile
bell	war; as bellicose, antebellum	ego	I; as egotism, egomaniac
ben	good, well; as benevolent, benefactor	equ	equal; as equity, equanimity
bibl	book; as biblical, bibliography	√ fac, fact,	make, do; as facile, factory,
bio	life; as biology, biopsy	fect, fic	infection, fiction
brev	short; as brevity, abbreviation	√ fer	bear, carry; as fertile, confer
cad, cas, cid	fall; as cadence, casualty, incident	fid	faith, trust; as confide, infidelity
cand	white, shining; as candid, candidate	fin	end; as infinite, final
cap, capt,	take, hold; as capable, captive,	flect, flex	bend; as reflect, flexible
cept	intercept	form	shape; as conform, reformation
capit	head; as capital, decapitate	√ fort	strong; as fortitude, fortify
carn	flesh; as carnal, carnivorous	frag, fract	break; as fragile, fracture
ced, cess	yield, go; as cede, procession	fug	flee; as fugitive, refugee
celer	swift; as celerity, accelerate	fus	pour; as confuse, fusion
cent	hundred; as century, centipede	√ gen	kind, race, birth; as generate, generic,
chrom	color; as chromium, chromatic		generation
chron	time; as chronology, chronic	gest	carry, bring; as congestion, gestation
Transfer to		grad, gress	step, go; as graduate, digress

	Open with	_	
ROOT	MEANING AND EXAMPLE	ROOT	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
graph	write; as autograph, graphic	pater, patr	i father; as paternal, patriot
grat	pleasing; as gratitude, congratulate	ped, pod	foot; as impede, biped, tripod
hydr	water; as dehydrated, hydrant	ped	child; as pediatrics, pedagogue
integr	entire, whole; as integrate, integral	pel, puls	drive; as compel, expulsion
√ ject	throw; as inject, projection	pend, pens	
junct	join; as conjunction, juncture	pet	seek; as impetus, petition
lat	carry; as translation, dilate	petr	stone, rock; as petrify
leg, lig, led	ct choose, gather; as legible, eligible, collect	phil	loving; as philosophy
liber	free; as liberate, libertine	phob	fear; as claustrophobia
√ loc	place; as dislocate, local	phon	sound; as phonic, phonetics
log	word, study; as catalogue, psychology	√ plic	fold, bend; as complicate, implicate
loqu, locut	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	√ pon, pos	place, put; as component, compose
	circumlocution	✓ port	carry, bring; as porter, import
luc, lum	light; as translucent, illuminate	pot	drink; as potion, potable
magn	great; as magnitude, magnificent	poten	powerful; as potentate, impotent
√ man	hand; as manufacture, manual	prehend,	take, grasp; as apprehend,
mar	sea; as marine, maritime	prehens	comprehension
mater	mother; as maternal, matrimony	prot	first; as protagonist, prototype
mega	large; as megaton, megaphone	psych	mind; as psychological, psychic
ment	mind; as mentality, mentally	quer, quir,	ask, seek; as query, inquiry, inquisition,
merg	plunge, sink; as submerge, merger	quis, ques	quest
meter	measure; as chronometer, symmetry	reg, rig, rect	t rule, govern; as regent, rigid, corrective
micro	small; as microscope, microfilm	rid, ris	laugh; as ridiculous, risible
migr	wander; as migrate, immigration	rupt	break; as rupture, erupt, interruption
mir	look; as admire, mirror	sacr	holy; as sacred, sacrificial
√ mit, miss	send; as admit, submission	sanct	holy; as sanction, sanctify
mon	advise, remind; as admonish, monument	sci, scio	know; as science, conscious, omniscient
√ mort	death; as immortality, mortal	scop	watch; as periscope, horoscope
mot, mov	move; as motor, motility, movable	✓ scrib, script	write; as describe, prescription
mult	many; as multitude, multifarious	sec, sect	cut; as secant, bisect
mut	change; as mutation, transmute, immutable	sed, sid, sess	sit, seat; as sedate, reside, session
nat	born; as natal, innate	sent, sens	feel, think; as sentiment, sensible
nav	ship; as naval, navigate	√ sequ, secut	follow; as sequel, consecutive
neg	deny; as negate, renege	serv	keep; as reserve, conservation
nomen	name; as nominee, nomenclature,	sist	place, stand; as assist, resistance
nov	cognomen	solv, solu	loosen; as dissolve, absolution
ocul	new; as novelty, novice, innovation	'somn	sleep; as somnambulist, insomnia
	eye; as oculist, binocular	soph	wisdom; as sophisticated, philosophy
oper	work; as cooperation, operate		

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ROOT	MEANING AND EXAMPLE	ROOT	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
√ spec, spect, spic	look, appear; as specimen, prospect, conspicuous	trit	rub; as trite, attrition
spir ✓ stat, stab string, strict stru, struct sum, sumpt tang, ting,	breathe; as conspire, respiration stand; as status, stability bind; as stringent, stricture build; as construe, destructive take; as assume, presumption touch; as tangent, contingency, contact,	umbra urb vac vad, vas val, vail	thrust; as intrude, abstruse shade; as umbrella, umbrage city; as suburb, urban empty; as vacate, evacuation go; as evade, evasive be strong; as valid, prevail come; as convene, prevention
tact, tig teg, tect tele tempor ten, tain term ter, terr therm tort, tors	contiguous cover; as tegument, detect distance; as telescope, teletype time; as temporary, extemporaneous hold, reach; as tenant, tension, retain end; as terminal, terminate land, earth; as inter, terrace heat; as thermometer, thermos twist; as contort, torsion	ver, vent verb vert, vers vid, vis vinc, vict viv, vit voc, vok volv, volut	true; as veracity, aver word; as verbose, verbatim turn; as convert, reverse see; as evident, visible conquer; as invincible, evict live; as vivacity, vital call; as in vocation, revoke roll, turn; as in involve, revolution
√ tract	draw; as attract, extract		

Prefixes

A PREFIX IS PART OF A WORD THAT MAY BE PLACED BEFORE THE BASIC ELEMENT (ROOT) OF A WORD.

The checked prefixes are especially important.

	The elicenca pressure		
PREFIX	MEANING AND EXAMPLE	PREFIX	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
✓a, ab, abs	from, away; as avert, abjure, absent	√ contra,	against; as contradict,
√ ad	to; as adhere. By assimilation, ad-takes the forms of a-, ac-, af-, al-, an-, ap-, as-, at-; as aspire, accord, affect, allude, annex, appeal, assume, attract	contro, counter ✓ de	down, away from, about; as descend, depart, describe
ambi, amphi	around, both; as ambidextrous,	demi	half; as demigod, demitasse
	amphibious	dia	across, through; as diameter, diastole
✓ ante, anti	before; as antedate, anticipate	√ dis, di, dif	apart, not; as dissension, division,
√ anti	against; as antidote, antislavery		diffident
arch	first, chief; as archangel, archenemy	√ equi	equal; as equinox, equivalent
auto	self; as autobiography, automatic	√ ex, e, ef	out of, from; as extract, eject, efface
ben	good, well; as benediction, benefactor	extra	out of, beyond; as extraordinary,
√ bi	two; as bilateral, bisect		extraterrestrial
√ circum	around; as circumnavigate, circumvent	√ hyper	too much; as hypercritical, hypersensitive
√ com, con, col, cor, co	together; as commit, concord,	hypo	too little, under; as hypochondriac, hypodermic

PREFIX	MEANING AND EXAM Open with ▼	PREFIX	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
√in, il, im, ir	into, in, on; as invade, illustrate,	✓ pre	before; as predict, precursory
/! !! ! !	immerse, irritate	✓ pro	forward, before; as proceed, provide
√in, il, im, ir	not; as indistinct, illegal, impossible, irresponsible	√ re	back, again; as recur, recede
inter, intro	between, among; as interpose, introduce	retro	backward; as retrogress, retrospect
√ mal, mis	bad; as malevolent, mistreat	se	apart, away; as seduce, sedition
mono	one, single; as monotone, monorail	semi	half; as semicircle, semiconscious
neo	new; as neoplasm, neophyte	√ sub	under; as submarine, subversive
√ non	not; as nonentity, nonconformist	√ super	above, beyond; as superpose, supernatural
✓ ob, of, op	against; as obviate, offend, oppose	syn, sym	with, at the same time; as
√ omni	all; as omniscient, omnipresent		synonymous, sympathetic
ortho	straight; as orthodox, orthopedic	√ trans	across; as transcontinental, transmit
pan	all; as pantheism, Pan-American	ultra	beyond; as ultraliberal, ultramodern
√ peri	around; as perimeter, periscope	√ un	not; as unaware, uninformed
✓ poly	many; as polygon, polygamy	√ uni	one; as unanimous, uniform
√ post	after; as postpone, postmortem	vice	instead of; as vice-chancellor, viceroy

Suffixes

A SUFFIX IS PART OF A WORD THAT MAY FOLLOW THE BASIC ELEMENT (ROOT) OF A WORD.

The checked suffixes are especially important.

	The checked sumxes a	are especially impo	rtant.
SUFFIX	MEANING AND EXAMPLE	SUFFIX	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
✓ able, ible	able; as pliable, returnable, comestible	√ il, ile	capable of being; as evil, servile
acious, ciou	s having the quality of; as capacious,	√ ion	act of; as desperation, perspiration
	meretricious	√ ious	characterized by; as spacious, illustrious
age	act, condition; as courage, foliage	√ ish	like; as boyish, foolish
al	belonging to; as legal, regal	ism	belief in or practice of; as idealism,
✓ ance, ence	state of; as abundance, indulgence		capitalism
✓ ate, ent,	one who; as candidate, advocate,	ist	one who practices or is devoted to;
ant, ante	resident, tenant, debutante		as anarchist, harpist
ary, eer, er	one who, concerning; as secretary, engineer, mariner	✓ ive	relating to; as abusive, plaintive
√ cy		mony	state of; as harmony, matrimony
	state, position of, as adequacy, presidency	✓ ness	quality of; as willingness, shrewdness
dom	state of; as freedom, serfdom	ory	a place for; as factory, depository
✓ ence	state of; as presence, credence	✓ ous, ose	full of; as ponderous, verbose
er, or	one who; as player, actor, monitor,	ship	
1947 (III)	employer	✓ some	state of, skill; as friendship, gamesmanship
✓ escent	becoming; as adolescent, putrescent		characteristic of; as loathsome, fearsome
√ fy	make; as beautify, sanctify	tude	state of; as lassitude, rectitude
hood	state of; as knighthood, childhood	ward	in the direction of, as windward, backward
ic, id	of, like; as bucolic, acrid	✓ y	full of; as unruly, showy

A List of Standardized Test Words Appearing More Than Once on Actual Standardized Exams Such as the GRE and SAT

We have made a computerized analysis of frequently occurring words on 47 complete standardized exams. (1,175 questions have been examined.) Following is a list of words or associated words appearing *more than once* on these 47 actual exams.

The definitions of these words have not been included here because we want you to *refer* to a dictionary to learn the meanings of these words, which have been repeated in subsequent question sections.

Note that after each word a numeral indicates the number of times that the word has appeared on the 47 actual exams.

Also note that certain pairs of words have a left-side bracket. The bracket indicates that the words are very closely allied in meaning—so if you learn the meaning of one of the two words in the pair, you will easily arrive at the meaning of the other word of the pair.

Learn the meanings of these words, as they have a tendency to be repeated in questions of the test.

abolish 2 abridge 2 abstemious 2 accent 1 accented 1 accolade 2 acquiesce 2 affirmation 2 amass 2 ambivalence 1 ambivalent 1 ambulatory 2 ameliorate 2 amity 2 anchor 2 antediluvian 2 ascendancy 2 atrophy 2 bane 1 baneful 1 bizarre 2 blunder 2 bungle 2 burgeon 2	capitulate 1 capitulation 1 capricious 4 clemency 2 coalesce 2 coalescence 1 cohere 1 coherent 1 compress 1 compression 1 confide 1 confidential 1 confound 2 congeal 2 contaminant 1 contaminate 2 converge 2 convivial 2 copious 2 corrupated 2 corrupt 1 corruption 1 cursory 2	daunt 3 dauntless 1 debilitate 2 deplete 2 discrepancy 3 disentangle 2 disputatious 1 dispute 2 distend 1 distention 1 drawback 2 efface 3 effervesce 1 effervescent 1 enhance 2 enigmatic 2 ephemeral 3 equilibrium 3 euphonious 1 euphony 1 evacuate 2 evanescent 2 expedite 1 expeditious 1	expendable 1 expenditures 1 exclude 2 facilitate 2 fallow 2 fertile 2 flourish 3 flower 1 fraudulent 3 fruitful 1 fruitless 1 garner 2 guile 2 hackneyed 2 hefty 2 hideous 2 hilarity 2 humane 2 [hypocrisy 1 hypocritical 1 innocuous 2 irascible 2 jettison 2 kindle 2	leniency 1 levity 1 levity 1 levitate 1 listless 2 maladroit 2 mitigate 2 mobile 2 munificent 2 munificence 1 myriad 2 nefarious 2 lobscure 1 lobscurity 1 lopaque 1 lopacity 1 parsimony 2 paucity 2 penury 2 peripheral 2 periphery 2 placate 2 precise 1 precision 1
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premature 2 premeditated 2 prevalent 2 proclivity 2 [prodigal 1 prodigious 2 [profuse 1 profusion 2 [pulverize 1 pulverized 1	rant 2 recalcitrant 2 recant 2 replete 2 rescind 2 reserve 2 ruffle 2 rupture 2 saccharine 2 salubrious 2	somber 4 specify 1 specificity 1 spurn 2 squander 2 stymie 2 subtle 2 summary 2 summon 3 sumptuous 2	surreptitious 1 surreptitiously 1 tantamount 2 [tenacious 1 tenacity 1 [transience 1 transient 1 turbulence 3 venturesome 3 viable 2	vibrancy 1 vibrant 1 vilification 2 virulence 1 virulent 1 whet 2 zany 2
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The Most Important/Frequently Used GRE Words and Their Opposites

Following is a list of popular GRE words and their opposites. *Note:* These words fit into specific categories, and it may be a little easier memorizing the meaning of these important words knowing what category they fit into.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
TO PRAISE	TO BELITTLE	TO CALM OR MAKE BETTER	TO MAKE WORSE OR RUFFLE
acclaim applaud commend eulogize exalt extol flatter hail laud panegyrize resound tout	admonish assail berate calumniate castigate censure chastise chide decry denigrate denounce disparage excoriate execrate flay lambaste malign reprimand reproach scold upbraid vilify	abate accede accommodate allay ameliorate appease assuage comply concede conciliate gratify mitigate mollify pacify palliate placate propitiate quell satiate	alienate antagonize contradict dispute embitter estrange incense infuriate nettle oppugn oppose repulse snub

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
PLEASANT	UNPLEASANT	YIELDING	NOT YIELDING
affable amiable agreeable captivating congenial cordial courteous decorous engaging gracious obliging sportive unblemished undefiled	callous cantankerous captious churlish contentious gruff irascible ireful obstinate ornery peevish perverse petulant querulous testy vexing	accommodating amenable compliant deferential docile flexible hospitable inclined malleable obliging pliant submissive subservient tractable	adamant determinate immutable indomitable inflexible intractable intransigent recalcitrant relentless resolute steadfast tenacious
GENEROUS	wayward CHEAP	COURAGEOUS	TIMID
altruistic beneficent benevolent charitable effusive hospitable humanitarian magnanimous munificent philanthropic	frugal miserly niggardly paltry parsimonious penurious skinflinty spartan tight-fisted thrifty	audacious dauntless gallant intrepid stalwart undaunted valiant valorous	diffident indisposed laconic reserved reticent subdued timorous
ABUNDANT OR RICH affluent bounteous copious luxuriant multifarious multitudinous myriad opulent pecunious plenteous plentiful plethoric profuse prosperous superabundant teeming wealthy	scarce or poor dearth deficit destitute exiguous impecunious impoverished indigent insolvent meager paltry paucity penurious scanty scarcity sparse	LIVELY brisk dynamic ebullient exhilaration exuberant inspiring provocative scintillating stimulating titillating	BLEAK dejected forlorn lackluster lugubrious melancholy muted prostrate somber tenebrous

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
CAREFUL	CARELESS	HUMBLE	HAUGHTY
chary circumspect conscientious discreet exacting fastidious gingerly heedful judicious meticulous provident prudent punctilious scrupulous scrupulous scrutiny wary	culpable felonious indifferent insouciant lackadaisical lax negligent perfunctory rash remiss reprehensible temerarious	demure diffident indisposed introverted laconic plebeian reluctant restrained reticent subdued subservient taciturn timid timorous unassuming unostentatious unpretentious	affected aristocratic arrogant audacious authoritarian autocratic condescending disdainful egotistical flagrant flippant imperious impertinent impudent insolent ostentatious pompous proud supercilious vainglorious

Note: In many cases you can put a prefix im- or un- in front of the word and change its meaning to an opposite.

Example: Pecunious. Opposite: Impecunious Ostentatious. Opposite: Unostentatious